

The Van Houten House
West Side Park
Paterson, Passaic County, New Jersey

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District of New Jersey

Historic American Buildings Survey
Seymour Williams, A.I.A., District Officer
133 Central Avenue, Rahway, New Jersey

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The Van Houten House
West Side Park
Paterson, Passaic County, New Jersey

Owner: City of Paterson

Date of Erection: Early eighteenth century

Architect:

Builder:

Present Condition: Good

Number of Stories: Two

Materials of Construction: Foundation - stone

Exterior walls - native brown stone probably from a Little Falls quarry. Most of the exterior walls have been stucco because of the porous nature of the sandstone and the clay joints

Interior walls - plaster
trim and doors - pine, painted white

Floors - original wide boards

Roof - gambrel on main part of house; pitch on wing

Historical Data:

The present house was rebuilt in 1831 by Adrian Van Houten; part of the original building had

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been burned in 1830. The wing was not burned and is what is left of the original house. The Van Houtens are an early Dutch family; therefore, it is possible to assume that the house was built in the early part of the eighteenth century.

Washington was a visitor at the Van Houten house when he was staying at the Dey House in 1780. The property passed from the Van Houtens during 1870 when it was sold to the Rossiter family and became known as the Rossiter Farm. The city of Paterson purchased the building from this family and incorporated it in what is now West Side Park.

Bibliography:

Pape, W.J.)
Scott, W.W.) The News' History of Passaic
Passaic, The News Publishing Company, 1889

Information from Dr. W. H. Rauchfuss,
local historian and curator of Dey Mansion

Field Book and Drawings of Survey

Walter E. Rott
Supervising Historian

Approved:

Seymour Williams
SEYMOUR WILLIAMS, A.I.A.
District Officer

Rev. Aug. 26, '36, T.T.W.

A D D E N D U M

Miss Bailey says that the wing of the present house was built shortly after the marriage of Gerrebrant Van Houten in 1741 and that the main part is post-revolutionary and was probably built by his son Dirck. The ancestor of the builder of the house was Roeloff Cornelissen¹ Van Houten who emigrated in 1663. His son Hellemege Roelfse², who died in 1729, settled in New Jersey. A son of his Dirck³ moved to Totowa. The Totowa patent was granted in 1696 to George Willocks. It came into the possession of the heirs of Anthony Brockholst who sold on September 26, 1715 and October 29, 1724 a quarter of their holdings to Dirck. He willed part of it to his son Gerrebrant⁴ who was born about 1712 and died in 1789. He built the stone wing and Nelson in his geneology of the family also names him as the builder. In a will made by Gerrebrant in 1723, the property was left to Dirck⁵, or Richard G. as he was known, who died in 1810. The last holder of the property in the family was Adriaen born in 1784 and died in 1855.

Bibliography:

Bailey, R. F. Pre-Revolutionary Dutch Houses and Families in Northern New Jersey and Southern New York New York, The William Morrow and Company, 1936

Walter R. Platt
Supervising Historian

reviewed May 9, 1939 JPH